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Chairman: Mr. Suazo ..... (Honduras)
later: Mr. Kavan (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Czech Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development (A/57/55, A/57/132, A/57/84-S/2002/645, A/57/202, A/57/329, A/57/331, A/57/343, A/57/350, A/57/422-S/2002/1064)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (A/57/3 (Part I and II), A/57/44, A/57/460, A/57/497, A/CONF.199/20)

1. **Mr. Desai** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in August and September 2002 (A/CONF.199/20), said that the primary purpose of the Summit had been to review implementation of Agenda 21 and identify what needed to be done to strengthen the process of implementation. Its focus had been on clarifying the goals, targets, timetables, resource commitments and technology, in order to translate the broad orientations of Agenda 21 into very concrete programmes. The Summit had been unique in the way it had sought to engage with civil society partners not only in the main conference but also in a range of meetings outside it. Substantial progress had been made in terms of clear commitments, targets and timetables in the five key areas identified by the Secretary-General: water, energy, health, agriculture and biological diversity. The Summit had produced a much more detailed programme of work than had existed in Agenda 21 in certain areas: energy, where there had been a fairly strong commitment urgently to increase the share of renewable energy and to provide energy to the energy-poor; water and sanitation; agriculture, particularly in respect of desertification and extending the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to cover desertification projects; health and biological diversity; oceans; and natural disaster mitigation. The follow-up process should maintain the pressure for implementation and ensure that the resources committed in partnerships were actually provided and used for the purposes intended, that the agenda was connected with the Millennium development goals, and that the resources committed at the International Conference on Financing for Development were available for the purposes agreed in Johannesburg.

2. The meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held in 2003, would have to be of an essentially planning rather than substantive nature. It would have to focus on restructuring the Commission to ensure that it was able to maintain the momentum of commitment beyond Johannesburg. There should be agreement on a multi-year programme of work in order to accommodate a diversity of concerns and to avoid putting everything on the agenda every year. The Commission would have to decide whether to continue with the thematic approach or whether, and how, to organize itself more around the goals and tasks identified at the World Summit. Consideration should also be given to ways of maintaining the connection established at Johannesburg between global and regional processes. Exchanges of experience could be even more fruitful at the regional level than at the global level, and it was important to establish a connection between the two processes in terms of Commission meetings. Another decision to be taken concerned the role which the Commission could play in facilitating the various types of synergies involved in partnerships between the public sector and non-State partners.

3. Within the United Nations system, it was important to emphasize very strongly the link between the central processes and the operational parts of the system. It was necessary to re-examine the nature of existing inter-agency collaborative arrangements and to connect the goals, targets and timetables agreed in Johannesburg with the country-level coordination processes which had been set up. Such issues were already being addressed.

4. What had been agreed in Johannesburg was an agenda not just for developing countries but also for the developed countries in terms not only of the support they would provide but also of sustainable consumption and production. The very concrete commitments regarding sustainable consumption and production were among the most important advances made at the Summit.

5. Finally, he referred to the concerns which had been expressed about certain typographical innovations in the report. They were mostly of an editorial nature, but he gave an undertaking that the report would be issued exactly in the form in which it had been approved, even if that meant issuing a revised version.

6. **Mr. Dengo** (Chief, Water, Natural Resources and Small Island Developing States Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) introduced the report of

the Secretary-General on activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 (A/57/132). The Year would be launched at United Nations Headquarters on 12 December 2002. Within the Organization, the activities for the Year were being coordinated jointly by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNESCO and UNEP. The objectives of the Year were the raising of awareness and the promotion of action regarding the importance of the sustainable use and management of freshwater resources. The Year was ideally timed in that it followed the International Year of Mountains and the World Summit on Sustainable Development and preceded the Third World Water Forum, to be held in Kyoto, Japan, in March 2003. Furthermore, the United Nations would be launching the World Water Development Report in 2003.

7. In such an ambitious undertaking, with a short time frame, the full commitment of all stakeholders was needed. The active engagement and participation of Governments, civil society and the private sector were crucial to ensuring that partnership initiatives pursued the Year's objectives well beyond 2003. Governments were encouraged to set up national committees and designate focal points to facilitate and promote the activities of the Year, and interested Permanent Missions to the United Nations were encouraged to convene an informal focus group to support the activities of the Year in New York and to translate them to their own countries. It was also important for Member States, national and international organizations and the private sector to mobilize voluntary contributions. He expressed the Secretariat's gratitude to Governments which had already provided or pledged support for the Year, among them the Governments of the Netherlands, Singapore and Tajikistan.

8. **Mr. Vallenilla** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said there was no doubt that progress had been made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. However, a review of the world in terms of the three pillars of sustainable development showed that the development problems still existed and challenges for present and future generations had continued to grow. Alarming, unsustainable patterns of development, based on production and consumption patterns that had global economic, social and environmental consequences, particularly in developing countries, continued to hold sway. The reality was discouraging: the cold fact was that the objectives of Agenda 21 had not been attained.

9. The Group of 77 and China called on the international community to comply with the commitments undertaken by the Heads of State and Government in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Without adequate international cooperation, financial resources and strong political will, no progress could be made. Failure to act could have a series of economic, social and environmental consequences, leading to the collapse of many developing countries. Moreover, the credibility of the multilateral system was at stake. The international community must seize the opportunity presented by the platform adopted at Johannesburg to fully implement Agenda 21.

10. The Group of 77 and China reiterated its call for greater coherence and coordination of policies in the work of all bodies involved in the management of sustainable development, so as to promote more integrated approaches to economic, social and environmental issues. The Commission on Sustainable Development must work more efficiently and provide policy guidance based on a realistic programme of work with attainable targets. Moreover, UNEP should be action-oriented and its mandate of fostering and promoting activities in the area of the environment throughout the United Nations system should be strengthened. The Group of 77 and China firmly believed that Agenda 21 should continue to be implemented at the same time as the recommendations of the major United Nations conferences held since 1992, especially the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

11. The Group of 77 and China welcomed the efforts being made to prepare for the International Year of Freshwater, scheduled for 2003. The Year would be the first practical opportunity to support and promote action to achieve the Millennium goal of reducing by half in 2015 the percentage of people who either did not have access to fresh water or could not afford it. Such action should be promoted and supported by the entire international community.

12. **Ms. Løj** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the central and eastern European countries associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia —

and the associated countries — Cyprus and Malta, which aligned themselves with her statement, said that the implementation of the outcomes of the Doha, Monterrey and Johannesburg meetings would set the multilateral agenda for sustainable development for the coming years. The European Union welcomed the Johannesburg agreements on new targets, timetables, objectives and specific work programmes. Those agreements — in the fields of water and access to sanitation, fish stocks, oceans, chemicals, biodiversity and access to energy, including renewable energy, sustainable patterns of production and consumption and strategies for sustainable development — were important supplements to Agenda 21 and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. The Johannesburg affirmation that good governance, enhanced participation of civil society and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as respect for cultural diversity were essential to the pursuit of sustainable development was also particularly welcome. In that context, the European Union once again wished to stress the importance of gender equality. Women as well as men should be able to participate fully and equally in policy formulation and decision-making and be given full and equal access to economic opportunity, including land ownership and inheritance. The European Union also welcomed decisions by several countries to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

13. The European Union supported the partnership initiatives announced in Johannesburg and invited all countries and stakeholders to participate in the further development of partnerships in support of the Plan of Implementation. Such initiatives could foster sustainable development action by governments, civil society and businesses. In that regard, the European Union's Water for Life Initiative and its Energy Initiative were clear examples of the Union's firm commitment to implementing the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit. Those initiatives were currently being further developed in close cooperation with partner countries and relevant stakeholders.

14. As far as renewable energy was concerned, the coalition of European Union countries and other States that had made a declaration on that issue at the World Summit (A/CONF.199/19) shared a commitment to setting clear and ambitious time-bound national targets for increasing the share of renewable energy, establishing national, regional and hopefully global targets and agreeing to work together to achieve those goals. The European Union invited other countries to join in those endeavours.

15. The European Union wished to underline the need to ensure coherence between the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and other major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Johannesburg Summit. Coordinated and integrated conference follow-up was needed at the national and regional levels as well as within the United Nations. The European Union was committed to working towards the integration of long-term sustainable development goals into policies, country and regional frameworks, and operational guidelines of appropriate international bodies.

16. The General Assembly should confirm that sustainable development was a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities. Reporting on progress on sustainable development should be included in the current high level dialogue on strengthening international cooperation for development. The Economic and Social Council should play a larger role in overseeing system-wide coordination and balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental aspects of United Nations policies and programmes aimed at promoting sustainable development. In that context, the Council should explore ways of improving coherence, coordination and cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO), including through its spring meetings with those institutions. The General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the Johannesburg agreement on United Nations governance structures.

17. The Commission on Sustainable Development must also be strengthened and must focus more closely on the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. In that regard, the European Union looked forward to the forthcoming discussions on the Commission's five-year work programme, which should review the further implementation of Agenda 21, address new challenges and opportunities and ensure the establishment of a credible and flexible follow-up mechanism on partnerships by the Commission. It was equally important to ensure follow-up at the regional, national and local levels, where further action must be taken to address the negative environmental, economic and

social impact of current developments through the strengthening of regional institutions, the elaboration and implementation of sustainable development strategies and the reinforcement of local Agenda 21 processes. The European Union sought to strengthen the role of the United Nations economic commissions and other relevant regional bodies in furthering sustainable development and urged the Economic Commission for Europe to promote the implementation of the Johannesburg outcome at the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment for Europe, to be held in Kiev in 2003.

18. Noting that each country had primary responsibility for its own sustainable development, she welcomed the NEPAD initiative and the international community's support for the implementation of that vision. Lastly, she stressed the European Union's continued commitment to ensuring consistency between its internal and external policies in order to achieve global poverty eradication and sustainable development.

19. **Ms. Ndhlovu** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that the Johannesburg Summit had provided the international community with the most positive and progressive outcome on sustainable development that it could achieve in the current global political environment. The Summit had, among other things, reaffirmed the importance of Agenda 21, the Rio Principles, and the Millennium development goals and stressed that eradicating poverty, changing consumption and production patterns and managing natural resources were the overarching objectives and essential requirements for sustainable development. It had focused on some obstacles to sustainable development, including the unfair global economic and trading systems and the inadequate transfer of technology. It had also shifted the focus from policy debates to the real task of implementation and showed the importance of integration and coordination in the follow-up to major meetings. It had highlighted the importance and necessity of collaboration between Governments and major groups to further sustainable development.

20. The Summit had reached new agreements and set new targets. Among other things, there had been a renewed commitment to improving access to water, health care and education, while new targets had been set for sanitation, agriculture and fisheries.

21. South Africa welcomed the focus on regional mechanisms for implementation of sustainable development and the special focus on Africa. In that regard, it was particularly pleased that the Summit had agreed to support NEPAD and other established regional and subregional efforts in Africa, including through financing, technical cooperation and human and institutional capacity-building. The various partnership initiatives announced at the Summit should complement the intergovernmental agreements.

22. She urged the international community to implement the Summit outcomes in a comprehensive and balanced manner. The Commission on Sustainable Development should be revitalized to enhance its effectiveness. Its focus should be on implementation and its work should also be linked to follow-up processes at the regional level. In that regard, multi-stakeholder participation would also need to be enhanced and linkages with the follow-up to the implementation of the Millennium development goals and the International Conference on Financing for Development were crucial. International institutions, including the international financial institutions, were urged to integrate the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in their work programmes.

23. The Community looked forward to constructive collaboration with all its partners and institutions in the implementation of the Johannesburg outcomes in its subregion. The combined challenges of prolonged drought, food insecurity and the HIV/AIDS epidemic made implementation in the subregion even more urgent.

24. **Mr. Kolby** (Norway) said that the results of the Johannesburg Summit had fallen far short of what was needed to meet challenges pertaining to environmental issues and poverty eradication. Nevertheless, given the complexity of the issues and the difficulties encountered during the negotiations, the results were far better than his delegation had feared and consensus had been reached on ambitious targets in some important areas, including water and sanitation.

25. Indeed, it had been agreed to halve by the year 2015 the proportion of people who did not have access to basic sanitation as well as the proportion of those without access to safe drinking water. Noting that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation called for closer coordination within the United Nations system as well

as between the United Nations and financial institutions during the International Year of Freshwater in 2003 and beyond, he said that the United Nations should take the leading role in developing a programme of action on freshwater. It should organize a concerted effort to assist the hardest hit regions to achieve sustainable water management.

26. There had also been progress on chemicals. In that regard, Norway looked forward to discussing the global mercury assessment at the 2003 session of the UNEP Governing Council. Norway's position was that a legally binding instrument on mercury and other heavy metals was needed and it would work towards that end. It also welcomed the commitments made to reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and to reverse the current trend in natural resource degradation.

27. However, no agreement had been reached on ambitious energy targets. Increasing the global share of renewable energy was of the utmost importance in the struggle against climate change and Norway would work with like-minded countries to increase the use of such energy. It was also vital to work towards a more ambitious climate change regime with broad and balanced participation. In the long term, implementation of the Summit commitments depended on the actions of governments. Norway was prepared to assume its share of responsibilities in that regard. Earlier in the current year, his Government had launched its Action Plan for Combating Poverty in the South towards 2015, which covered all policy areas of importance to poverty reduction, including environment and natural resource management.

28. Ways had to be found to ensure that the partnership initiatives launched at Johannesburg contributed to the realization of targets set in the Plan of Implementation. Norway had announced an international partnership with UNEP to strengthen environmental management capacity as a contribution to poverty eradication in Africa. It welcomed the participation of other countries in further developing and implementing that initiative. More effective use must be made of existing structures in following up and coordinating and implementing the outcomes of United Nations conferences. The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary machinery should play primary roles in following up conference outcomes. The Commission on Sustainable Development should be strengthened and become a more relevant forum for political dialogue on the links between the three dimensions of sustainable development. It was also important for the Commission to work closely with all United Nations organizations involved in sustainable development.

29. The Johannesburg Summit must be followed by concrete action to reduce poverty, change production and consumption patterns and improve management of natural resources. The process must not be allowed to lose momentum and the international community owed it to future generations to take its commitments seriously and bring about real change.

30. *Mr. Kavan (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

31. **Mr. Shamanov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation was on the whole pleased with the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which had reaffirmed the priority of national efforts to achieve sustainable development. The Russian Federation was focusing on establishing a modern legislative basis for sustainable development based on the principles of the market economy and democracy; ensuring environmental safety; maintaining the integrity of natural ecosystems and the quality of the environment; further enhancing the system of environmental education and awareness; and developing and introducing cutting-edge technologies. In the summer of 2002, the Russian Government had adopted its "ecological doctrine", and a plan was being drawn up for its implementation, taking into account the decisions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The State Duma had recently held special hearings on the Summit outcomes, at which a range of legislative initiatives had been suggested that were aimed at enhancing national activities directed at sustainable development.

32. It was important not to lose the momentum established in Johannesburg. One key factor was reform of the Commission on Sustainable Development in the light of the Summit outcomes, adapting its working methods to take account of new realities. The Plan of Implementation would be well served by the establishment of a special group within the United Nations Secretariat on the five key areas identified by the Secretary-General. Successful implementation would require effective, particularly cost-effective, and innovative modalities involving the principal agencies of the United Nations system. Work on specific areas needed to take account of the recommendations of

individual agencies and to narrow the gap between normative solutions and operational activities. It was also necessary to identify practical ways of implementing Summit recommendations at the regional level by working out new regional platforms and strategies of action to be coordinated by the regional economic commissions. Common approaches were needed to such fundamentally important questions as compensation for global environmental services provided by countries actually performing the functions of the planet's ecological donors. It would be useful for UNEP to conduct an in-depth analytical study of all aspects of that question.

33. **Ms. Zhang** Xiao'an (China) said that at the World Summit the international community had reached consensus on meeting the challenges involved in achieving sustainable development. The opportunity should be taken to implement the outcome of the Summit and to establish the appropriate follow-up mechanism to turn targets and commitments into action and reality.

34. In achieving the targets set out in Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit, countries and regions should aim at common development and establish new partnerships based on mutual respect, equality and reciprocity. International cooperation should be based on the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities". Countries should have adequate financial resources, relevant technologies and skilled personnel. Political will meant not only an increase in official development assistance and transfer of technologies on preferential terms, but also market access for developing countries, elimination of trade protectionism and debt reduction.

35. The Commission on Sustainable Development should continue to serve as the major forum within the United Nations system for discussion and consideration of sustainable development, and China favoured the convening of an organizational session of the Commission to determine future methodologies and work plans. China had attached great importance to sustainable development and had integrated it into an overall strategy for national economic development.

36. **Mr. Stagno** (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, referred to the challenge of reconciling the sustainable development and international trade agendas. Recent international meetings had mobilized the commitment of the international community to take firm action to meet its obligations. He outlined a number of tangible results of the World Summit, mentioning the importance of access to energy as a poverty relief strategy.

37. The Rio Group was convinced that sustainable development required a stable and inclusive international economic system in which the environmental dimension was viewed as an opportunity for investment and trade rather than as a barrier or source of discrimination. Developed countries should adhere to their commitments to developing countries in terms of financial support, human resources capacity-building, technology transfer and optimal use of energy sources. The current focus on international security issues should not divert attention from development and environment issues as international priorities. In that context, the Rio Group wished to reaffirm the central role of the United Nations in the promotion of international cooperation to achieve sustainable development.

38. The Group attached great importance to implementation of the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit and wished, in particular, to endorse the mandates in chapter XI of the Plan of Implementation entitled "Institutional framework for sustainable development", and subsection E of that chapter dealing with the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It was, however, concerned by the lack of clarity about the redesign and restructuring of the Commission and particularly about the agreements to be reached in the coming year on the Commission's modalities and work programme and the results and interaction between the negotiation and non-negotiation sessions, among others.

39. **Mr. Hussain** (India) said that the goals and targets of the World Summit should be translated into firm projects and action at all levels, although the outcome did not meet the full expectations of developing countries. They had hoped that the developed countries would undertake specific, time-bound commitments to make available substantial financial resources and environmentally-sound technologies to developing countries. He hoped that through collective action common goals could be achieved, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

40. With regard to poverty eradication, India welcomed the decision to establish a world solidarity

fund and hoped that at its current session the General Assembly would be able to finalize the modalities for establishing that fund. It also welcomed the inclusion of the targets set for the provision of sanitation and safe drinking water as an internationally agreed goal.

41. India recognized the importance of the conservation, protection and sustainable use of natural resources. For India, a country rich in biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge, the decision to negotiate an international regime to protect and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources was particularly relevant. Developing countries had long sought equitable benefit-sharing and supported the establishment of sui generis systems and traditional systems, since previous provisions under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) had not proved adequate. The immediate task was to structure and revitalize the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development in line with the mandate agreed at Johannesburg. It was hoped that outstanding matters such as the framework, criteria and scope for partnerships would be considered within the Commission.

42. His delegation did not agree with several editorial changes made in the published version of the report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (document A/CONF.199/20), as they did not accurately reflect the understanding reached among participants.

43. **Mr. Requeijo Gual** (Cuba) said that the developed countries lacked the political will to fulfil their obligations, and that there had been attempts to dilute the Rio principles, including the concept of common but differentiated responsibilities. International efforts to protect ecological systems did not nullify the primary responsibility of developed countries for the degradation of environmental conditions or disruption of the ecological balance of developing countries. The Johannesburg Summit had reiterated the Rio goals, but had not achieved firm financial commitments to allow developing countries to achieve sustainable development.

44. He highlighted the problems arising from low levels of official development assistance, persistent external debt and lack of access to new technologies, and reiterated proposals to generate additional resources for development made by his delegation at Johannesburg. They concerned the creation of a development tax, cancellation of the developing countries' external debt, allocation of half of the sums spent on military purposes to a fund for sustainable development and immediate compliance by the developed countries with their ODA commitment.

45. **Mr. Hidayat** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that no effort should be spared to implement agreed commitments. The intention to reverse the decline in ODA was welcome, and innovative ways to mobilize financial resources had been adopted to ensure the availability of new and additional financial resources.

46. Stressing the critical role of regional and international organizations in elaborating programmes and activities to help implement the sustainable development agenda, he said that the member countries of ASEAN had devised a number of strategies and programmes for that purpose through various regional initiatives.

47. Partnerships launched by governments, major groups and intergovernmental organizations, were an innovative approach for generating activities and resources. However, such initiatives were no substitute for government responsibility. He hailed the contribution of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as a high-level focal point to monitor, review and follow up various outcomes.

48. He reiterated the call for strengthened institutional arrangements and capacities at the national, subregional and regional levels, with a view to promoting the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development. The momentum generated at the summit should be kept alive. High-level participation in the next substantive session of the Commission on Sustainable Development should be promoted and innovative measures for ensuring its effective functioning should be identified.

49. **Mr. Gallegos Chiriboga** (Ecuador) said that the Johannesburg Summit had reaffirmed, at the highest political level, the commitment of the international community to the objective of sustainable development. Global economic transformations had failed to generate real opportunities. Instead, there had been an increasing tendency towards marginalization and social exclusion, and environmental degradation

and pressure on natural resources and environmental services had persisted.

50. Meeting the challenge of real integration of policies on sustainable development required acceptance of responsibilities nationally and regionally, but would also entail confronting global issues, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The fulfilment of mandates under chapter XI of the Plan of Implementation and the role to be played by the Commission on Sustainable Development were crucial. The United Nations and the multilateral system in general should channel and mobilize international efforts and resources to meet global challenges.

51. **Mr. Gamaleldin** (Egypt) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

52. The World Summit had accomplished a lot. Among other things, it had reaffirmed the centrality of Agenda 21 and the Rio principles and emphasized the commitment of the international community to move from policy development to implementation; it had incorporated the Millennium development goals and reaffirmed the fundamental principle of common but differentiated responsibilities; and it had seen the adoption of a multi-pronged approach to poverty eradication. Yet the Plan of Implementation did not specify how the targets agreed to in Johannesburg would be implemented, how much that would cost, where the resources would come from, who would do what, and how progress would be measured. Instead, what had prevailed had been a "litigation" approach to international cooperation emphasizing compliance, liability, enforcement and the need for dispute settlement mechanisms. The North had made a systematic attempt to absolve itself of its previous international commitments on means of implementation.

53. If sustainable development was to be achieved, there must be greater coherence at the national level, concrete commitment and political will on the part of the international community to support developing countries, and a favourable institutional framework. Every country was currently in the process of preparing for implementation of the Johannesburg outcomes and considering how best to incorporate the Summit outcome in the national development framework. The international community should assume its responsibility to ensure the availability of the required means of implementation. The resources announced at the International Conference on Financing for Development should be linked to the implementation of some well-identified Summit targets. There could be no sustainable development unless the multilateral trading system was made the key vehicle for the mobilization by developing countries of the resources required for development. A way must be found to improve the institutional infrastructure for sustainable development at the international and regional levels. The international community needed to evaluate the experience of the last 10 years in order to avoid the mistakes of the past and build on its successes.

54. **Mr. Singhara Na Ayudhaya** (Thailand) said that his delegation supported the statements made by Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by Indonesia on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

55. One of the important outcomes of the World Summit was time-bound targets. All nations and all stakeholders must work in partnership in the pursuit of those targets and commitments while upholding the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Thailand joined in the calls for the early implementation of the relevant section of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on the provision of new and additional financial resources to developing countries. Capacity-building was another area of critical importance; the international community, relevant international organizations and developed countries should provide greater support for capacity-building and the development of science and technology in developing countries.

56. Despite Thailand's rapid integration into the global economy and its sudden exposure to the forces of globalization, it had made appreciable progress in implementing its commitments to Agenda 21. It had incorporated Agenda 21 into its national policies and programmes under the national economic and social development plan for 2002-2003. One notable feature of the plan was the philosophy of "sufficiency economy", which encouraged people to achieve a sustainable lifestyle in harmony with existing domestic resources and local knowledge and wisdom. That philosophy would guide Thailand in implementing Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

57. **Mr. Mizukami** (Japan) recalled that, at the World Summit, Japan had emphasized the importance of sharing strategies, responsibility, experience and information globally, a principle it had referred to as the "Partnership of Global Sharing" for sustainable development. It was important to take concrete action to implement the outcome of the Summit. Japan had already initiated and would steadily implement the Koizumi Initiative, which attached importance to human resources development and specified measures to be taken in the area of sustainable development.

58. The Plan of Implementation recommended that the General Assembly should consider proclaiming a decade of education for sustainable development, starting in 2005, as proposed by Japan. Consequently, Japan had decided to submit a draft resolution on the issue at the current session. The purpose of the draft resolution was to prepare for the start of the decade. In addition to proposing that the General Assembly should declare the 10-year period beginning in 2005 to be a decade of education for sustainable development, the Japanese draft resolution would propose that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) should be designated as the lead agency in developing a draft international implementation scheme and that governments should be invited to include necessary concrete measures to implement the decade in their national educational plans. Japan would like the draft resolution to be adopted by consensus with as many sponsors as possible. It accordingly requested the understanding and support of other Member States.

59. The Governments of Japan and Indonesia, together with their partners, had launched the Asia Forestry Partnership (AFP) as a type 2 project during the Johannesburg Summit. The objective of AFP was to promote sustainable forest management in Asia. The Government of Japan, the Government of Indonesia, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the Nature Conservancy (TNC) had hosted the first meeting for the promotion of AFP in Tokyo on 11 November 2002.

60. Water was indispensable to human life and the preservation of ecosystems. In Johannesburg, therefore, participants had agreed to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who were unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who did not have access to basic sanitation. Bearing in mind the importance of water, Japan was preparing for the third World Water Forum and the Ministerial Conference on the subject, which would be held in March 2003. Japan invited members to participate actively to ensure that those events would have a positive outcome as follow-up to the Summit.

61. **Mr. Nobs** (Switzerland) said that Switzerland particularly welcomed the following achievements of the World Summit: the agreements on new targets, objectives and specific work programmes in the field of chemicals, biodiversity, sustainable patterns of production and consumption, and water and access to sanitation; the affirmation that good governance, enhanced participation of civil society, gender equality, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as cultural diversity, were essential to the pursuit of sustainable development; the urgent appeal to all countries to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and the announcement by several delegations that they were in the process of ratifying that important instrument; and the launching of partnership initiatives, especially the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions.

62. Switzerland was satisfied with the decisions taken at the Summit and was fully committed to contributing to their implementation. An integrated follow-up to the Millennium Declaration, the major United Nations conferences and the Johannesburg Summit was crucial. Switzerland was also satisfied with the decision taken at the Summit to strengthen the institutional structure for sustainable development, particularly with regard to the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development as the primary United Nations organs responsible for sustainable development.

63. The Commission on Sustainable Development was the main United Nations organ for policy dialogue on sustainable development, and its work should focus on horizontal issues rather than on issues that were treated in other, more specialized processes. The Commission should be involved in following up the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. It should also be involved in the implementation of existing partnerships and provide a framework for new ones, as well as review the multi-stakeholder dialogue by using it for the discussion of partnership initiatives.

64. In order to ensure sustainable development, an ecosystem approach to freshwater issues had to be adopted. Every effort must be made to fulfil the new

target of halving the population without access to sanitation by 2015. With regard to the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Switzerland fully supported the decision taken at the Global Ministerial Environment Forum to strengthen international environmental governance. It was important to ensure that UNEP was able to provide the necessary policy guidance and financial means. Switzerland was committed to a forward-looking forest policy that would deliver tangible results. Therefore, it fully supported the work of the United Nations Forum on Forestry (UNFF) and other relevant institutions. The forest process should give new momentum to the implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF) proposals for action.

65. **Mr. De Villiers** (World Tourism Organization) said that the World Tourism Organization had argued on many occasions that the momentum of tourism should be more effectively harnessed in efforts to combat poverty and to preserve the world's natural and cultural heritage. Regrettably, tourism had been largely ignored in most of the poverty-reduction strategies of international aid and development agencies, despite the fact that many developing countries had a comparative advantage in that field. However, that attitude was changing, and a new appreciation for the value of tourism as a development tool was emerging. While Agenda 21 had not included a single reference to tourism, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Brussels Programme of Action highlighted sustainable tourism.

66. The World Tourism Organization had responded to the challenge facing it in several ways. A Global Code of Ethics for Tourism had been negotiated and unanimously approved by member countries in 1999 and had been noted with interest by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001. Following the decision by the General Assembly to declare 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism, the World Tourism Organization, in collaboration with UNEP, had arranged a World Ecotourism Summit in Quebec City in May 2002, with the participation of more than 1,200 delegates from 132 countries. The main outcome of the Ecotourism Summit had been the Quebec Declaration (A/57/343), containing important guidelines and recommendations for the sustainable development of ecotourism, which had been submitted to the World Summit for Sustainable Development. In addition, the World Tourism Organization, together with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), had launched in Johannesburg a project with the acronym ST-EP, which provided a new institutional mechanism for linking sustainable tourism and elimination of poverty with a framework for financing, research and practical projects. The World Tourism Organization and UNCTAD had also established a working group to help developing countries gain maximum benefit from negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda relating to the comparative advantage they enjoyed in tourism.

67. His Organization looked forward to the completion in 2003 of the process set in motion by Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/24 for the conversion of the World Tourism Organization to a specialized agency of the United Nations. That would strengthen the cooperation already existing between the Organization and several United Nations agencies and would further advance the implementation of the goals spelled out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Brussels Programme of Action.

68. **Mr. Langmore** (International Labour Organization) said that the International Labour Organization (ILO) was pleased that the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation recognized the vital role of income-generating employment opportunities that took into account the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work as an essential factor for the eradication of poverty. His Organization would continue to use its decent work agenda and global employment agenda as key mechanisms to support action at the country level to promote employment, incomes and decent work; it was also collaborating with the Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network initiative, which brought together the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Labour Organization.

69. At its forthcoming meeting, the Committee on Employment and Social Policy of the Governing Body of ILO would discuss follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit, particularly in regard to employment, decent work and the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and relevant ILO standards for poverty eradication; the role of ILO and its constituents in facilitating the transition to more sustainable consumption and production patterns; and the continuation of activities implemented since Rio to enhance the capacity of ILO workers' and employers'

organizations to deal directly with the challenges of sustainable development.

70. The ILO World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization would also be considering follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit. It would probably consider means of rapidly increasing opportunities for work and productivity growth, improving labour standards, reversing growing inequities of income, strengthening the international environment for development and addressing the global democratic deficit. The International Labour Organization gave high priority to integrating its Johannesburg follow-up initiatives with the Millennium development goals, although it fully recognized that the Johannesburg outcomes went far beyond the Millennium development goals relating to poverty reduction and encompassed many important commitments and opportunities for action by and within industrialized countries, all of which warranted follow-up action by ILO and its constituents.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/57/SR.34

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later: Mr. Kára (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Czech Republic)

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02-69582 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 93: High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.36

1. **Mr. Vallenilla** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the draft resolution in document A/C.2/57/L.36. The Monterrey Consensus adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development was one of the most important documents adopted in recent years by the United Nations. The sponsors had followed the structure of the Consensus, including the main mandates and guidelines set forth therein, so that the United Nations and the international community could begin implementation of the Consensus and the commitments made at the Conference. The draft resolution sought to lay the foundation for the creation of means for channelling financial resources for economic and social development in the most efficient and coherent manner possible.

2. **Mr. Davison** (United States of America) said that his delegation was disappointed with the draft resolution, which appeared to be a repudiation rather than a reaffirmation of the Monterrey Consensus and did not reflect the holistic nature of the financing for development agenda. His delegation had been struck by the complete absence of references in the text to the primacy of national responsibilities and to the need for good governance and sound economic policy at the national level. It appeared that the Group of 77 was abandoning its commitments to Monterrey. His Government would certainly take that fact into account when contemplating how to realize its own commitments to Monterrey. The tone and overall imbalances in the draft resolution were inappropriate, and it would be desirable for the Group of 77 to produce an amended text that more accurately reflected the holistic nature of financing for development and the consensus aspect of the Monterrey Conference.

3. **Mr. Vallenilla** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the tone of the statement made by the United States delegation was inappropriate, considering the dialogue which had led to the Monterrey Consensus. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.36 hoped that the United States delegation would change its tone and enter into the spirit of Monterrey. They did not claim to have submitted a perfect resolution but had assumed that others would contribute elements that were not included in their text. The draft was holistic, inasmuch as it incorporated the structure of the Monterrey Consensus. The sponsors would not be producing a new version, but would appreciate proposals from other delegations for consideration in negotiations on the draft resolution.

Address by Mr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

4. **Mr. Toepfer** (United Nations Environment Programme), introducing the report of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) (A/57/25), said that the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was focused on the interrelationship between the environment and development and on concrete and measurable implementation.

5. A real round of trade negotiations was needed, as decided in Doha. It was important to open markets and fight against economically and environmentally perverse subsidies, especially in agriculture. Foreign direct investment must be increased, and more must be done to reduce the debt burden, to implement the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative and to reverse the negative trend in official development assistance (ODA). Those measures could do more for the global environment than good intentions that were not acted on. To realize the Millennium development goals and move forward on the targets, timetables and commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, action-oriented tools were needed. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) provided an example of a new and stimulating initiative for Africa. The next meeting of the Governing Council of UNEP, to be held in Nairobi in 2003, would focus on the environmental dimension of NEPAD, as well as of the regional initiatives adopted in Johannesburg.

6. Unsustainable consumption and production patterns in the developed world were an important source of environmental problems at the global and national levels and contributed to poverty, underdevelopment and environmental degradation. Under its mandate for assessment and early warning,

UNEP had prepared the third Global Environment Outlook (GEO3) as a contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to provide policy makers with an authoritative assessment of the state of the environment and its implications for all aspects of sustainable development. In that regard, UNEP was paying special attention to the increasing severity of desertification and land degradation, the dramatic decrease in biodiversity and genetic resources, the increasing threat of chemicals to human health, the drastic consequences of climate change, and unsustainable consumption and production patterns. In addition, UNEP was addressing issues relating to oceans and freshwater through the Global Programme of Action, the Global Environmental Monitoring System and the Global International Waters Assessment.

7. Environment was a vital resource for development, and UNEP was aware of the need for cooperation within the United Nations system, with civil society and with private business, which must assume its corporate responsibility. His organization was committed to implementing partnerships, which had been a key focus of the Johannesburg Summit. He was pleased that the World Summit had endorsed the outcome of the seventh special session of the Governing Council without change, and hoped that the Second Committee would do likewise.

8. In preparation for the next GC/GMEF, UNEP was focusing on ensuring that its plans responded to the needs and priorities defined in the Summit Plan of Implementation and the Millennium development goals. In particular, UNEP would be assessing the implications for its future programme of work of the Governing Council's decision on international environmental governance. Steps were being taken to strengthen the role and structure of GC/GMEF, in order to improve coherence in international environmental policy-making and to review the role of the Environmental Management Group (EMG) in enhancing coordination across the United Nations system. Capacity-building at the national and regional levels would be strengthened. Also, as agreed in Cartagena, UNEP was developing ways to improve coordination among and effectiveness of the many multilateral environmental agreements. To strengthen its role and financial situation, UNEP had developed a proposal for an indicative scale of assessments which would be discussed at the GC/GMEF to be held in February 2003. As a result of its efforts to ensure stable, adequate and predictable financing, UNEP was meeting its target of 100 countries contributing to the Global Environment Fund. The responses of governments had been very positive.

9. Significant progress had also been made in strengthening UNEP headquarters in Nairobi. The amount of US$ 1.4 million had been advanced from the UNEP reserve for construction of new facilities to meet the increasing demand for space. There was no longer any questioning of Nairobi as an appropriate headquarters location for UNEP. However, there were still some difficulties. The regular budget contribution to UNEP continued to account for less than five per cent of its resources. The rent that UNEP paid for office space to the United Nations was approximately the same as the amount it received from the regular budget. Those issues must be addressed.

Address by Ms. Joke Waller-Hunter, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

10. **Ms. Waller-Hunter** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)) said that the report in document A/57/359 concerned the outcome of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Marrakesh in October and November 2001.

11. The eighth session had been held in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002, and its outcome reflected an important transition from negotiations to implementation. Ninety-six Parties had ratified the Kyoto Protocol, including developed countries accounting for 37.4 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions. Poland and the Republic of Korea had announced their ratifications at the Conference, and the Russian Federation and a number of other countries had indicated during the World Summit on Sustainable Development that they planned to ratify in the near future. Thus the Protocol would enter into force in 2003 and the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol could be held in Italy in December 2003.

12. The outcome of the eighth session had consisted of two main components: a number of decisions to advance implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention, and the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, which built on the outcome of the World Summit on

Sustainable Development. The Delhi Declaration had emphasized that, in addition to acting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Parties to the Convention must also give high priority to adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change. It had also reiterated the importance of implementing existing commitments under the Convention, and had called for early ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. The Delhi Declaration had also called for the adoption of less polluting energy and other innovative technologies, and had urged Governments to increase renewable energy resources and to promote the transfer of technologies in order to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in major economic sectors, including through private sector and market-oriented approaches.

13. The session had made good progress on a number of important issues of implementation. The clean development mechanism was now operational, and the first projects under it were likely to be submitted for approval early in 2003. The Conference had also agreed on simplified modalities and procedures for small-scale clean development mechanism projects, which lowered transaction costs and enhanced the attractiveness of such projects for investors. With small-scale projects, the clean development mechanism would be able to ensure that foreign direct investment, which at present was directed to a limited number of countries, reached a broader range of developing countries. The Conference had also agreed with the clean development mechanism Executive Board's proposal to facilitate the designation of the so-called operational entities to validate and register projects as well as to verify and certify emission reductions. That was important in order to ensure environmental integrity in the system. Finally, the Conference had approved the proposed rules of procedure for the Board, which were essential to its efficient, cost-effective and transparent functioning.

14. At the eighth session, the Conference had finalized guidelines establishing the rules for estimating greenhouse gas emissions and the accounting of assigned amounts, which constituted the basis for assessing the fulfilment of commitments of Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol. The guidelines also set the rules for the reporting of the information submitted by those Parties and its review. With those guidelines in place, implementation of the Protocol could be monitored and registered in a fully transparent system.

15. A further important achievement of the session had been the adoption of a five-year New Delhi Work Programme on article 6 of the Convention dealing with education, training and public awareness. The Parties had agreed on a list of activities that could be undertaken at the national level, as well as several elements that would enhance regional and international cooperation on the issues in question.

16. The Conference had reviewed the effectiveness of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and had invited the secretariats of GEF and the Convention to work further on streamlining the guidance which the Conference of the Parties was giving to GEF and to begin a process of determining the funding that was necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention. The Conference also provided guidance to GEF that would allow speedy functioning of the special climate change fund and the least developed countries fund, established at its seventh session. The least developed countries fund was now fully operational, with an initial funding of $12 million, and would finance the development of national action programmes for adaptation being carried out by those countries with the support of the special climate change fund.

17. The Conference had also agreed on new guidelines for the preparation of the second national communications from the non-Annex I Parties, which were an improvement on the existing ones in that they would enhance the quality of national reporting and facilitate a better exchange of information. The Parties had also emphasized the need to implement the measures agreed at the seventh session to strengthen the capacities of developing countries to address the challenges posed by climate change. An informal mechanism had been established between the Convention Secretariat and key intergovernmental organizations, including GEF and its implementing agencies which delivered capacity-building support to the Parties. The Conference had noted the progress made by the Convention's Expert Group on Technology Transfer, and encouraged it to continue its work. The Delhi Declaration had placed strong emphasis on technology transfer, establishing a firm link with the energy outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

18. As evidence mounted that the adverse impact of climate change would undermine national and international efforts to achieve sustainable development, there was an obvious need for vigorous

national and international action to deal with climate change. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the results of the eighth Conference of the Parties both pointed in the direction of enhancing such international cooperation.

19. *Mr. Kára (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development (*continued*) (A/57/25, A/57/132, A/57/84-S/2002/645, A/57/202, A/57/329, A/57/331, A/57/343, A/57/350, A/57/422-S/2002/1064)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (*continued*) (A/57/3 (Parts I and II), A/57/444, A/57/460, A/57/497, A/CONF.199/20)

20. **Mr. Leslie** (Belize), speaking on behalf of member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that were Members of the United Nations, said that the international community had faltered in the achievement of the goals of Agenda 21 for a host of reasons, including failure to embrace a collective responsibility for advancing and strengthening the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development. The outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its Plan of Implementation had given the CARICOM countries renewed hope that sustainable development could be achieved through human solidarity and constructive partnerships. The commitments made at the International Conference on Financing for Development to increase ODA had been welcome, but full and effective implementation of Agenda 21 would require new and additional resources.

21. The CARICOM countries welcomed the adoption of the "polluter pays" principle. Although they had been responsible caretakers committed to the protection and preservation of their environment, those countries had suffered a great deal. Several had been severely affected by adverse weather conditions, including floods and hurricanes, with the poor always being worst affected. Their economies were becoming more fragile and vulnerable because of external influences, including man-made and natural disasters. They wished to express their gratitude to the international community for its rapid response to such disasters, but called on it to become more proactive in dealing with them: more resources must be provided to mitigate the adverse effects of such hazards in the Caribbean region and to prevent them from becoming disasters. Every dollar spent on disaster mitigation saved hundreds of dollars in response and rehabilitation.

22. Trade, and particularly its liberalization, were essential for the growth of the developing countries, yet the fruits of globalization had not redounded to their benefit, and their economies continued to deteriorate even as they became increasingly open. For the CARICOM countries, certain key systemic issues had to be addressed in order to ensure that the benefits and costs of globalization were equitably distributed. The decision-making process on trade-related issues had to be fair, transparent and all-inclusive. The question of market access had to be addressed with a view to the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers. Equitable and constructive partnerships should be pursued between developed and developing countries for their mutual benefit.

23. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development had mandated a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, and negotiations were under way to determine the modalities of that review. The CARICOM countries believed that the Barbados Programme of Action should not be renegotiated, but they welcomed a frank and comprehensive review, with a summit segment, to consider the best means for its further implementation. They hoped for agreement on the draft resolution on the agenda item relating to it, and looked to the international community to make the necessary resources available.

24. In certain areas, the mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development would need to be re-engineered in order to enable it to focus more on implementation in respect of the issues relating to the three pillars of sustainable development. It should be more results-oriented and follow a target-oriented programme of work. It should not be bound by themes, but there should be sufficient flexibility to enable Member States to bring to its attention current and pressing issues relating to their achievement of sustainable development. CARICOM would welcome an operational session of the Commission in January 2003 to discuss those proposals in greater detail, as well as to discuss the practical and operational elements surrounding the ten-year comprehensive review of the Barbados Programme of Action.

25. **Mr. Traub** (United States of America) said that the most important message from the World Summit was probably that sustainable development depended not just on the United Nations or government promises but also on the actions of all stakeholders. Efforts on the ground based on well-conceived strategies and undertaken in true partnership were the only way of making lasting progress on sustainable development. His Government had announced at the Summit more than a dozen United States-led partnerships for sustainable development. It was also pleased to be part of a collective effort that had launched more than 200 partnership initiatives aimed at addressing the needs of the poor and the needs of the planet. The United Nations should acknowledge and fully embrace those outcomes of the Summit.

26. His country was committed to building on the Summit's momentum towards implementation and enthusiasm for real action. The Commission on Sustainable Development should play an important role in focusing, and acting as a catalyst concerning the international community's efforts, on implementation. It must quickly undertake specific reforms called for in the Summit Plan of Implementation, notably those of limiting negotiations in its sessions to every two years; limiting the number of themes addressed at each session; and serving as a focal point for the discussion of partnerships that promoted sustainable development, including sharing lessons learned, progress made and best practices. The General Assembly must empower the Commission to move quickly on the new reforms, and the Commission must hold an organizational meeting as soon as possible in 2003 to discuss how it would implement them. The Commission must become an innovative forum for the entire sustainable development community and a vital catalyst for effective action. It was time to adapt to the new focus on implementation, and achieve real results.

27. **Mr. McIvor** (New Zealand) said that the World Summit had made progress on a number of areas that were of priority interest for his country, although it would have preferred greater focus on new targets and goals in the outcome documents. The next step was to identify the appropriate response of the multilateral agencies to the agreements reached. Also, each Member State must ensure that there was early movement on the implementation process. Concerted global, national and regional efforts would be required.

28. New Zealand welcomed the Summit decisions on the future organization and work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which had laid the basis for it to become a more relevant, action-oriented body focused on implementation. That would require flexibility in terms both of outputs and of participation. New Zealand would like greater participation in the Commission by experts discussing genuine sustainable development issues. It was appropriate for the Commission to spend every other year monitoring and encouraging implementation of programmes, but it should also provide for more direct and substantive involvement by international organizations, notably by enhancing its linkages with the World Trade Organization (WTO) with a view to realizing the sustainable development benefits of multilateral trade reform. Noting the Summit decisions on the elimination of subsidies in the fisheries and energy sectors, New Zealand considered that WTO was uniquely placed to perform a leadership role in that work, and would wish the Commission in alternate years to monitor WTO progress until the completion of the Doha Development Agenda and beyond. The focus of sectoral or thematic debates in intervening years would have to be carefully planned: the Summit's call for concentration on cross-cutting themes and balance between the three pillars of sustainable development represented a difficult challenge, and more time was needed to reflect on possible topics. Clearly, the Commission must become a body that could offer solutions to practical problems of sustainable development without necessarily becoming embroiled in negotiations, North-South rhetoric and position-taking. A flexible and creative approach would be needed to the modalities for its future work, particularly in years when it had been decided that there would be no negotiations. New Zealand looked forward to working with others to create a vibrant, practical and relevant Commission.

29. **Ms. Battungalag** (Mongolia) said that, while the Johannesburg Summit had given new impetus to global action promoting the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, the road to achieving the Summit's noble goals would be difficult and challenging. Mongolia, which was highly susceptible to natural disasters and to fluctuations in commodity prices, attached special importance to sustainable development.

30. Her delegation welcomed the progress achieved in implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the outcomes of the second GEF Assembly, particularly the designation of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, as a new focal area of the Facility. Combating desertification was one of the top priorities on her Government's development agenda. It had designated 13.2 per cent of the country's total land mass as a protected area and was contemplating placing almost the entire territory of Mongolia under special environmental protection, in order to prevent the spread of desertification not only in Mongolia but also in Central Asia and beyond.

31. Despite the considerable efforts made by her Government in the area of sustainable development, the country still faced enormous environmental challenges. A series of natural disasters, droughts and serious snowfalls over the past three years had impoverished thousands of herdsmen and their families. That was why Mongolia attached special significance to the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. With a view to building national capacity and improving the disaster management system, her Government was taking steps towards disaster mitigation in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Luxembourg. Mongolia also supported the work of the Inter-agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and cooperated with the Task Force and its working group on climate change and natural disasters. Lastly, Mongolia supported the strengthening of the institutional framework of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

32. **Mr. Rim** Song Chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) deplored the widening gaps in wealth between developed and developing countries and the increasing marginalization of developing countries in international economic relations. In recent years, overall development in those countries had been constantly deteriorating owing to poverty, the heavy external debt burden and the negative impact of globalization, among other factors. Shortages of food, drinking water, energy and shelter, as well as inadequate sanitation were denying millions of people their fundamental right to survival.

33. In a few developed countries, the unsustainable pattern of production based on selfish and unfair competition had resulted in surplus wealth that was squandered. That, in turn, led to excessive consumption of natural resources and hindered stable and sustainable development. While millions of people were suffering from food shortages and such diseases as HIV/AIDS in one part of the globe, considerable sums were spent disposing of surplus products in another part. Another serious challenge to sustainable development was the state of international peace and security. While the cold war had ended 10 years previously, conflicts, arms races and unilateral economic sanctions were still damaging the global ecological environment and threatening the security and survival of mankind.

34. Environmental protection and sustainable development were essential to the common prosperity of mankind. To that end, each country should muster the political will to provide a decent environment for present and future generations and establish equitable international economic and trading relations that were propitious to sustainable development. No attempt should be made to interfere in other countries' internal affairs by applying unilateral and coercive economic sanctions or imposing the economic systems of one country as a model of development. Moreover, attaching political conditions to development assistance and putting pressure on or even mobilizing military means against other countries for economic purposes should never be tolerated. Rather, measures should be taken to ensure the access of products from developing countries to the world market on favourable terms.

35. Stressing the need for the establishment of a favourable environment for sustainable development in developing countries, he said that top priority should be given to eradicating poverty in those countries through cancellation or reduction of their unsustainable debt burden and increased ODA. That should go hand in hand with a variety of new types of additional development funds and the transfer of environmentally friendly technology.

36. Peace and security were indispensable to sustainable development. His Government was focusing on developing its economy through technology, environmental protection and education in order to give its people better living conditions and bequeath a powerful nation to future generations.

37. **Mr. Pringle** (Canada) said that the World Summit had been perhaps the most ambitious attempt ever at a

highly integrated intergovernmental discussion across the three pillars of sustainable development. The breadth of its agenda had posed a stiff test to multilateralism, which participants and the multilateral system had passed with flying colours.

38. Canada was pleased that differences of approach among developed and developing countries had not prevented a substantive and positive outcome to the Summit, which had agreed on a Plan of Implementation that set out priorities and specific actions in a wide range of sustainable development sectors, including new targets on access to basic sanitation, the production and use of toxic chemicals and the stabilization of fish stocks. Of special significance to his delegation was the reaffirmation of the importance of good governance and respect for human rights to sustainable development.

39. The Summit's success had been due in no small part to its inclusiveness and the key role played by partnership before and during the meeting. Along with government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations and the private sector had been active participants in the discussions. A key result of that inclusive approach had been the announcement of over 200 innovative public-private partnerships aimed at implementing sustainable development in concrete ways.

40. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, together with Agenda 21 and the Millennium development goals, gave the international community the policy framework it needed to advance sustainable development. The next absolutely essential step was implementation. Canada had already more than doubled its annual funding to UNEP, increased its contribution to a wide variety of initiatives across the sustainable development agenda and acceded to the Rotterdam Convention placing tighter controls on exports of designated chemicals and pesticides. A commitment had been made to submit the Kyoto Protocol to the Canadian Parliament for ratification by the end of 2002. Canada had also made a commitment of Can$ 6 billion to Africa over the next five years, including a new Can$ 500 million Special Fund for Africa; undertaken to double its ODA by 2010 to 8 per cent a year; and to eliminate tariffs and quotas on almost all products from the 48 least developed countries with effect from 1 January 2003.

41. Given the breadth of the Summit agenda, implementation would become the responsibility of a wide range of specialized agencies and organizations as well as ad hoc processes, such as the Third World Water Forum to be held in Kyoto in March 2003. Bilateral and multilateral aid and funding agencies would also play a major role by responding to developing countries' sustainable development priorities in a coordinated manner. The Commission on Sustainable Development should have a special role in promoting the Johannesburg outcomes. Canada was committed to ensuring the full implementation of the Summit decisions. Follow-up to the Summit should be integrated with follow-up to the Millennium Summit, the Doha WTO Ministerial Conference and the International Conference on Financing for Development and should be consistent with the framework for United Nations reform.

42. **Mr. Rotich** (Kenya) welcomed the importance given by the Johannesburg Summit to the problems affecting Africa and the recognition of the role of NEPAD as a development framework for the continent, and supported the call in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for the General Assembly to convene an international meeting in 2004 to review the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. The Summit had identified new challenges and opportunities for sustainable development; the international community now had to ensure the full implementation of the commitments and targets agreed at the Rio and Johannesburg Summits.

43. To that end, the international community should continue to work in a spirit of solidarity and partnership, ensuring that the necessary means of implementation were made available. Developed countries should, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, fulfil their commitments in order to realize the widely shared goals for sustainable development by mobilizing more financial resources, transferring environmentally friendly technologies, providing assistance in capacity-building and ensuring that products of interest to developing countries had access to the world market on favourable terms.

44. Stressing the need for strong institutional mechanisms in order to implement the actions, timetables, objectives and specific programmes in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, he reiterated the need to strengthen existing international, regional and

subregional structures, bearing in mind their respective mandates and unique roles in promoting sustainable development. Maintaining the current governance structure of UNEP and strengthening its role, authority and financial base would utilize its potential as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment. He stressed the continued need to increase allocations under the United Nations regular budget for financing the activities of the UNEP secretariat and Governing Council.

45. He underlined the critical role of effective regional, subregional and national strategies in the prevention, reduction and mitigation of the social, economic and environmental impact of natural disasters. However, the development and implementation of such strategies would require the provision of financial and technological support as well as assistance for capacity-building.

46. Climate change might be the greatest environmental challenge facing mankind. Unprecedented extreme weather patterns, as well as greenhouse gases were having profound effects on the world's environment. He called on all Member States to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and on the international community to provide technical and financial assistance and capacity-building assistance to developing countries as provided in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

47. Kenya welcomed the recent decision of GEF to include land degradation and deforestation as one of the focal areas of the Facility. Moreover, it was pleased with the commitment made at the Summit to significantly reduce by 2010 the loss of biodiversity, provide new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries and initiate negotiations on an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing with countries of origin of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources.

48. **Mr. Shin** Boo-nam (Republic of Korea) said that the time had come to develop concrete follow-up plans for each target and commitment in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The Commission on Sustainable Development should review and monitor progress on Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation, consider issues related to the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development and play an active role in developing follow-up action for the Plan of Implementation. Such action should be developed, implemented and monitored in a transparent manner with the full participation of all relevant stakeholders in order to ensure its success. Moreover, discussions designed to revitalize the Commission on Sustainable Development should take place in a framework that provided for more direct and substantive involvement of international organizations and major groups in the work of the Commission.

49. While his delegation welcomed the hundreds of partnership initiatives launched in Johannesburg by governments and the private sector, it wished to emphasize that those partnerships were not a substitute for government responsibilities and commitments, but a means of bolstering sustainable development initiatives. In that regard, a framework should be developed to monitor those initiatives and utilize the results at the forthcoming meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant meetings.

50. Although it was very important to discuss follow-up actions to the Plan of Implementation in the relevant international institutions, including the United Nations system, it was even more crucial that each nation should integrate into all its programmes policies to further sustainable development through good governance.

51. His Government remained committed to the achievement of sustainable development. In that regard, it had completed all the domestic procedures for ratifying the Kyoto Protocol and had deposited its instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General the previous week. Moreover, his Government planned to host an international seminar in the near future focusing on follow-up actions to the World Summit and regional environmental cooperation in North-East Asia.

52. **Ms. Escorel de Moraes** (Brazil) said that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation not only encompassed the commitments and measures to further implement Agenda 21 and meet the new post-Rio challenges, but also incorporated the development and poverty eradication goals of the Millennium Declaration and set new targets for the international community as a whole. If the Johannesburg targets were to be met and sustainable development achieved, a true spirit of partnership and solidarity was needed at the international level to provide the financial

resources, technology transfers, capacity-building and market access essential for developing countries, given their limited capacity and resources.

53. The post-Johannesburg process offered an unprecedented opportunity to define new modalities to make the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development more effective in the future. The Commission's programme for the coming years needed to address major issues and involve experts and stakeholders in the discussions, while ensuring high-level participation and a meaningful and tangible outcome. In particular, the future programme should highlight renewable energy and the follow-up to Johannesburg in that sector, and tackle unsustainable production patterns and poverty eradication, while taking into account the role of the specific conventions and the obligations they entailed.

54. It had been agreed in Johannesburg that the Commission should remain the main United Nations forum for discussing sustainable development topics and for monitoring implementation. It should be strengthened to enable it to play its role of reviewing progress and promoting further implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg commitments, which it was broadly agreed should be its main focus, with special emphasis on the means of implementation, an area of critical importance to developing countries.

55. Water resources were crucial to mankind and the planet. They should no longer be taken for granted and action was needed at all levels to protect and preserve water quality for the future. Brazil welcomed the forthcoming International Year of Freshwater in 2003 and the current and planned United Nations actions to highlight the importance of freshwater resources to human needs, health, agriculture and ecosystems. Two years ago, her Government had established a national agency for water to oversee water resources policy and management throughout the country, with a view to controlling the use of rivers so as to prevent pollution and waste and ensure high-quality water supply for the future.

56. In August 2002, Brazil had ratified the Kyoto Protocol, whose imminent entry into force it welcomed, in line with its conviction that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Protocol thereto offered the most appropriate instrument to guide international efforts to combat global warming, according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. In Rio the developed countries had acknowledged their responsibility for sustainable development, in view of the pressures their societies placed on the global environment and the technological and financial resources at their disposal; that had been reaffirmed in Johannesburg, together with the need for the developed countries to take the lead in pursuing sustainable development.

57. **Mr. Kaemba** (Zambia) said that the World Summit had re-emphasized the need to manage natural resources in a sustainable and integrated manner, through protection of ecosystems and integrated management of land, water and marine resources. His own Government was tackling those issues as part of a national poverty reduction strategy. Furthermore, it was implementing a national environment action plan targeting water pollution and inadequate sanitation, soil degradation, air pollution, wildlife depletion and deforestation, problems whose social and environmental costs were largely borne by the poor. The strategies being followed including protecting and expanding the asset base of the poor, co-managing and co-investing their resources, promoting infrastructure and technology development, giving priority to poor areas and poverty relief, and reforming markets and planning. Those were the areas in which his Government was seeking assistance from international development partners.

58. His Government was also implementing a national water policy involving water supply and sanitation strategies geared to the environment, low-income communities and rural areas, with particular emphasis on the needs of the poor. A water resources action programme was to be developed, with comprehensive resource management strategies in order to make water widely available for domestic and industrial use. Again, international cooperation with development partners was sought in order to mitigate the effects of drought on food security in the country.

59. **Mr. Adhikari** (Nepal) said that, 10 years after Rio, Agenda 21 had yet to be implemented, while the environment was suffering as a result of population growth, unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and lack of resources in developing countries. Environmental problems did not respect national boundaries and a global response was required through collective action at all levels, as reaffirmed at the World Summit. Although the Summit had paved the way for a new consensus and new partnerships in the

international community, his delegation was one of the many that wanted more robust and specific benchmarks and targets. Nevertheless, the Plan of Implementation was a sound and forward-looking document and it was now vital to implement it.

60. Poverty was the most formidable challenge facing rich and poor countries alike and sustainable development was not possible until basic needs were met in poor countries and more sustainable patterns of production and consumption were pursued in rich ones. Global warming also represented a major threat and no country could remain immune from the disastrous consequences of climate change.

61. Those problems were recognized in the Millennium Declaration, which set key goals and benchmarks for a more peaceful, healthy, prosperous and just global society, including the aim of halving the proportion of the world's population living in poverty by 2015. All countries should now bring to bear the political will and resources needed to realize those goals, which had been given fuller expression in the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation. He welcomed the benchmarks and targets set by the Summit, as well as the Type 2 partnerships which had been agreed.

62. Nepal was a disaster-prone country and 83 per cent of its land mass was mountainous. Every year, floods, landslides and changing river courses wrought devastation, destroying vast areas of fertile top soil and prime agricultural land. As a result, poverty alleviation and environmental preservation had always been priorities, particularly in poor rural areas where population pressures and over-exploitation of natural resources were a concern. The Government had set up a separate ministry to coordinate population- and environment-related policy and activities, while afforestation programmes were being introduced and national parks and wildlife reserves created, along with measures to prevent soil erosion and protect flora and fauna. Emissions standards had been introduced, polluting industries phased out in urban areas and priority given to exploiting the country's huge hydropower potential. Nepal was also striving to implement the international conventions and agreements on the environment to which it was a party. It had been celebrating the International Year of Mountains during 2002 and had set up a national committee for mountain development.

63. As one of the least developed countries, further constrained by problems linked to the Maoist insurgency, Nepal particularly needed international support from development partners, under Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation.

64. **Mr. Gamaleldin** (Egypt), referring to the report of the UNEP Governing Council (A/57/25), said that his delegation welcomed the success of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum held in Cartagena in February 2002, as well as the ministerial consultations in progress regarding environmental management. He hoped that the relevant recommendations would be swiftly implemented and believed that UNEP had a positive role to play in that regard. He called on UNEP to cooperate with UNDP and other agencies and reiterated the importance Egypt attached to the Governing Council's decision SS.VII/7 on the environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, which had been adopted unanimously. The decision had expressed concern over the continuing deterioration and destruction of the environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and urged the Executive Director to take all necessary steps, on an urgent basis, to coordinate UNEP activities in the area, to follow up the findings and recommendations of the UNEP study and assist the Palestinian Ministry of Environmental Affairs in its efforts to address the urgent environmental needs in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.